



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the deadline for entering the Contest?

The deadline is **March 22, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET. If entering by mail, your submission must be postmarked by March 22.**

2. What size art should I submit?

File size: We can accept files up to 10MB through the online form. You will receive a confirmation email that we have received your entry. If you do not, please follow up to make sure we received your entry. You can email artgalleries@gaithersburgmd.gov for assistance.

After the winners are chosen: The winning designs will be reproduced on storm drains in the City of Gaithersburg. This year we may also reproduce the art on banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials.

On storm drains, we will have an artist draw the art onto a larger concrete storm drain. We will try to replicate the drawing as close as possible to the original design on the storm drain. Therefore, the size of the art submitted is not relevant. However, the ratio and orientation is. We ask you that you submit your art oriented horizontally, with a ratio of



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2:4. For example, 2 inches by 4 inches, 4 inches by 8 inches, 8 inches by 16 inches, etc.

What we are looking for is our ability to replicate the art. On banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials, the art may need to be electronically resized and or cropped to fit the available area.

3. What format should I use when submitting the art?

We accept .jpg, .png and .pdf files.

Examples of methods of submission include:

- Take a picture of the artwork and submit the picture as a .jpg or .png.
- Scan the artwork and submit the scan as a .pdf
- Create the art on the computer and submit the artwork as a .jpg, .png or .pdf file.



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

4. Are there any limitations as to what material is used to create the art?

No limitations, you can use any media (crayon, marker, computer programs, etc. Any material you would like, as long as it is an original design). When we install the art on the storm drain, we will use paint. However, we ask you that you outline your art with a thick, defined stroke - e.g., outline with a black marker or line.

For the banners, coloring books and other educational materials, the designs will be printed on paper or uploaded and made available in digital form.

5. Where will the art be installed?

The art will be installed on storm drains located in the City of Gaithersburg. It is the City of Gaithersburg and GPARC's discretion where, and for how long, the storm drain art will be visible. This year, the art may be displayed also on banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials.

The City of Gaithersburg Storm Water Management Divisions receive permission from the Department of Transportation or private storm drain(s) owners in advance of painting. Please do not paint storm drains or any other structure anywhere in the City without receiving permission



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

from the County agency, nonprofit, Homeowner Association in the community, or business that manages the storm drain.

6. Any dimensions I should abide by?

Storm drains come in all shapes and sizes. However, they are generally rectangular shaped. Therefore, we ask you that you draw your art so that it fits a rectangular shape of 4:2 ratio, oriented horizontally. (e.g., 4 inches tall by 8 inches wide)

The art being displayed on banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials will be resized to fit the available area.

7. What about the manholes found on storm drains?

If a manhole is located on a storm drain, we will paint the manhole cover with a solid color, and the design will be painted over.

8. Who will judge the art?

A panel of judges from our local artistic and environmental community.



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

9. What are the judging criteria?

- Educates about a water quality issue related to streams, storm drains, or another environmental topic
- Easy to recreate on a storm drain
- Creative, colorful and original
- Coherent and easy to understand message
- Relevant slogan or tagline

10. How does the art get installed?

- a. The storm drain gets a base layer of white and allowed to dry for 24 hours.
- b. Once the base layer has dried (24 hours or later) the outline is drawn onto the storm drain.
- c. Colors are then added to fill the shapes.
- d. The art is then outlined, and water related messages are finally added.

For the banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials, we will prepare the design to fit the appropriate area.



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

11. When will the art be installed?

The winners will see their art installed on storm drains in June 2022, in honor of Chesapeake Bay Awareness month. All submitted art may be displayed, later, on banners, bus shelters, coloring books and other educational materials. We will notify artists when and if their art is installed.

12. How long does the art stay on a storm drain?

The art may stay on the storm drains indefinitely. We visit the storm drains throughout the year to make sure the art is holding up. Routine maintenance will be conducted to refresh any chipped or faded paint. Touch ups or repainting will also be done in cases where the manhole cover has been replaced. If the paint has chipped or faded too much, the art may be painted over. It is based on the discretion of the City of Gaithersburg and G-PARC and the group managing the storm drain if the art needs to be removed. For the banners and bus shelters, the length of time the art is displayed may vary.



STORM DRAIN CONTEST

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

13. How would someone know who designed the art?

The name or initials of the artist can be included on the storm drain when painted. In addition, winners will be announced on our website and locations and pictures of the day of painting will be posted. For the banners, bus shelters, coloring books, and other educational materials, the name of the artists will be displayed on the printed and digital material.

14. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

You can email
artgalleries@gaithersburgmd.gov